

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
 2 receiving a plurality of requests for unicast transmission streams;
 3 providing the plurality of unicast transmission streams;
 4 synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams; and
 5 replacing the synchronized plurality of unicast transmission streams with a multicast
 6 stream.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission
 2 streams is performed by speeding up one or more of the unicast transmission streams.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission
 2 streams is performed by slowing down one or more of the unicast transmission streams.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission
 2 streams comprises varying each stream's speed so that the plurality of streams end up at the same
 3 transmission point.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein a single movie provider and a single movie theater share
 2 a single encryption key not shared by any other movie provider and movie theater.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of unicast transmission streams contain a
 2 single pre-recorded event.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of unicast transmission streams are started
 2 at different times.

- 1 8. A method comprising:
2 synchronizing a plurality of separate unicasts; and
3 converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a single multicast, wherein the
4 unicasts have been converged at the same point within each unicast.
- 1 9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
2 delivering the plurality of separate unicasts to a plurality of unicast recipients.
- 1 10. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
2 receiving a plurality of requests for the unicast from a plurality of unicast requestors.
- 1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein synchronizing the plurality of separate unicasts includes
2 differentially adjusting a delivery rate of each unicasts so that the unicasts converge at similar
3 point within a predetermined time frame.
- 1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein synchronizing the plurality of separate unicasts
2 comprises:
3 dynamically altering each unicast in an undetectable manner so that each of the plurality
4 of unicasts converge at a similar point within each unicast.
- 1 13. The method of claim 8, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a
2 single multicast comprises:
3 determining when the plurality of unicasts have converged to the same point; and
4 converting each of the plurality of unicasts into a single multicast.
- 1 14. The method of claim 8, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a
2 single multicast is performed once the plurality of unicasts are at substantially the same point
3 within the unicast.

1 15. The method of claim 8, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a
2 single multicast comprises:

3 terminating each of the plurality of synchronized unicasts; and

4 replacing each of the terminated plurality of synchronized unicasts with a multicast.

1 16. The method of claim 8, wherein converging the plurality of synchronized unicasts into a
2 single multicast, wherein the single multicast replaces the plurality of unicasts.

1 17. A method comprising:

2 delivering a plurality of point-to-point communications to a plurality of users;

3 converting the plurality of point-to-point communications into a point-to-multipoint

4 communication; and

5 delivering the point-to-multipoint communication to the plurality of users.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the point-to-point communications are streaming
2 media.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein converting the plurality of point-to-point
2 communications into a point-to-multipoint communication comprises:

3 applying a timing algorithm to synchronize the plurality of point-to-point

4 communications.

1 20. A method for multicasting initially unicasted information streams, the method
2 comprising:

3 processing a plurality of unicast streams to converge the plurality of unicast streams; and

4 converting the plurality of converged unicast streams to a multicast stream, wherein the

5 multicast stream replaces the plurality of unicast stream without interruption of the stream

6 content.